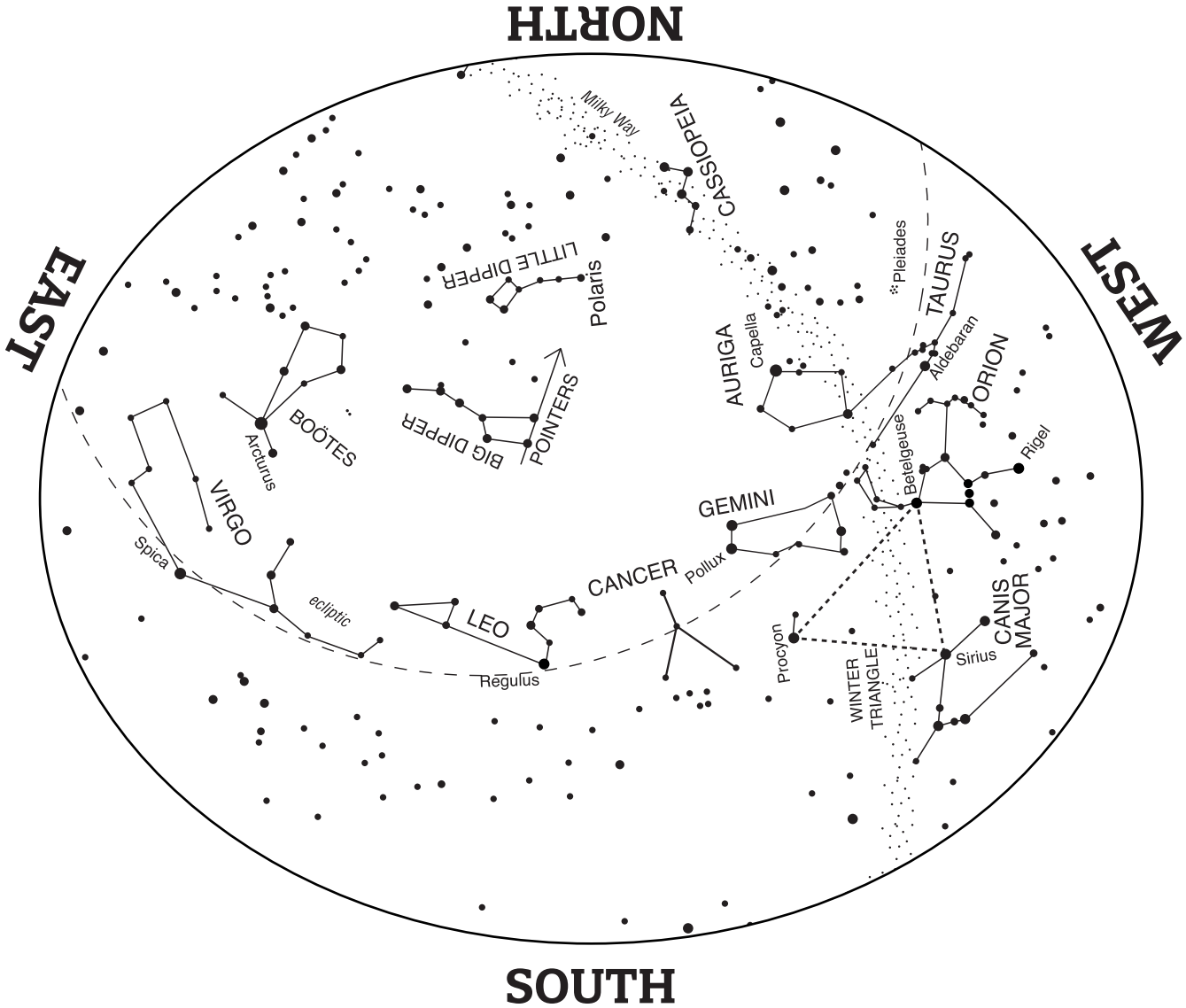


Starmap

MARCH/APRIL 2024



601 Light Street • Baltimore's Inner Harbor
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TO USE MAP:

Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half on the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:
11:30pm Mid-March EDT
9:30pm Mid-April EDT

MAGNITUDE is a measure of a star's brightness.

The lower the number, the brighter the star

- 1st or brighter magnitude star
- 2nd magnitude star
- 3rd magnitude star
- 4th or fainter magnitude star

ECLIPTIC:

The imaginary path of the Sun through the year. Constellations of the Zodiac surround the Ecliptic and the Moon and planets appear along it.

Starmap

MARCH/APRIL 2024

IN THE MARCH/APRIL SKY



Mar. 3
Last Quarter Moon

Mar. 8
Moon near Venus and Mars
(morning)
(See Celestial Highlights)



Mar. 10
New Moon

Mar. 13
Moon Near Jupiter
(See Celestial Highlights)



Mar. 17
First Quarter Moon

Mar. 20
Vernal Equinox
(see Celestial Highlights)



Mar. 25
Full Moon



Apr. 1
Last Quarter Moon

Apr. 6
Moon Near Saturn and Mars
(morning)
(See Celestial Highlights)

Apr. 7
Moon Near Venus
(morning)
(See Celestial Highlights)



Apr. 8
Total Solar Eclipse (New Moon)
(See Celestial Highlights)

Apr. 10
Moon Near Jupiter
(See Celestial Highlights)

Apr. 10
Saturn Near Mars
(morning)
(See Celestial Highlights)



Apr. 15
First Quarter Moon

Apr. 22
Lyrid Meteor Shower Peaks
(See Celestial Highlights)



Apr. 23
Full Moon

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS, SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2:00 AM – Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

VERNAL EQUINOX, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 11:07 PM – The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of spring. The Equinoxes are the only two days each year when the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on Earth! If you happen to be standing at the Earth's equator at noon during the Equinox, you will see the sun pass directly overhead.

PLANET AND MOON GROUPINGS – Early morning on March 8th the Moon, Venus, and Mars will rise together in the east right before sunrise. On the night of March 13th Jupiter will be the brightest object next to the Moon. Around 6 am right before sunrise on April 6th the Moon will rise with Saturn and Mars right above it. Just before sunrise on April 7th the Moon and Venus will rise together in the eastern sky. Before sunrise on April 10th Mars will be directly above Saturn in the eastern sky. Around sunset on April 10th Jupiter will be the brightest object just below the Moon.

LYRID METEOR SHOWER – Meteoroids are bits of debris from comets that burn up passing through Earth's atmosphere creating a quick flash or streak of light called a "meteor" or "shooting star." A meteor shower is a high frequency of meteors that seem to come from one area of the sky. Around 5 am on April 22nd the meteor shower will be almost directly above in the sky which will be the best time to view it. This shower can be found at other times by looking just above the brightest star in the North-Eastern sky, Vega, which will rise after midnight. The shower will last from April 15th until the 29th.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE – On April 8th the eclipse will start just after 2pm and will reach its maximum coverage (about 90%) at 3:21pm. The eclipse will end at 4:30pm. Join the MSC Staff on April 8th from 12p-4p for safe viewing of the eclipse. Baltimore will not see the full eclipse so eclipse glasses or other ways of safe solar viewing will be required to see the eclipse. NASA has safe eclipse viewing methods if you do not have eclipse glasses. <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety/>

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at <https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/>

The Observatory at the Maryland Science Center info:

Safe solar viewing is offered Saturdays from 1:00pm-4:00pm, weather permitting (admission included with Science Center admission).



MERCURY

When:
Visible March 15 - March 31
just after Sunset
Where:
West
Constellation:
Pisces



VENUS

When:
Visible March around sunrise
Not visible April
Where:
East
Constellation:
Capricornus, Aquarius



MARS

When:
Visible just before sunrise
Where:
East to Southeast
Constellation:
Capricornus, Aquarius,
Pisces



JUPITER

When:
Visible early evening
Where:
West
Constellation:
Aries, Taurus



SATURN

When:
Not visible March Visible
April after 6th
Where:
East to Southeast
Constellation:
Aquarius